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March 22, 1996

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## **House Passes Repeal of Clinton Ban on Assault Weapons**

*Washington, D.C.* -- In a 239-173 vote, the House of Representatives passed today a repeal of the assault weapons ban. Ernest J. Istook, Jr. (R-Okla.) voted for the measure.

Istook said, **“This is a repeal of President Clinton’s 1994 ban that was based on cosmetic appearances as part of the White House public relations effort. Gun bans don’t work because criminals don’t obey gun laws.”**

**“The important part of the bill we passed today is the crackdown on persons who use a firearm--ANY firearm--in committing a crime,”** continued Istook. **“No matter what kind of gun it is, this repeal gives stiffer and mandatory prison sentences to anybody who carries or uses a gun in committing a crime.”**

Istook noted that so-called assault weapons are no more deadly than many other firearms which remain legal; they only look different. They are not the type of guns that are used in most violent crimes. And those guns are not automatic weapons; automatic weapons were illegal before the ban and they still remain illegal.

In cases where a gun is used to commit a crime, the bill establishes mandatory minimum prison sentences. Examples are 5 years for possessing a firearm while committing a crime, 10 years for brandishing that firearm, and 20 years for discharging it with the intent to injure another person.

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